

LITTLE PENGUIN IN QUEENSLAND.

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THROUGH the kindness of Mrs. Fagan, "Greenmount," Tweed Heads, a specimen of the Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor nova-hollandiæ* (Stephens), captured at Coolangatta beach near the southern border of this State, has been added to the Queensland Museum collections. Mrs. Fagan records that this specimen was picked up alive on the 15th May of this year; it refused to eat anything and died within about twenty-four hours after capture.

The occurrence of this specimen within the Queensland border is a matter for surprise. According to A. J. North,¹ Cabbage-tree Island, near the entrance to Port Stephens (about S. lat. 32° 40') was the most northerly record (breeding). Coolangatta is north of Point Danger, about S. lat. 28° 7'. The Little Penguin just succeeded in crossing our boundaries.

Apparently this bird requires trinomial designation. Mathews refers to the variations shown in specimens from West Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, and New South Wales, but finds "that the white tail of the Australian form renders it separable from the New Zealand bird, which is also constantly darker."² He utilises Stephens's term *nova-hollandiæ* for Australian birds as a subspecies of *E. minor*, subsequently restricting this to New South Wales forms and noting other subspecies. Alexander and Brooke Nicholls, however, after a valuable study of a large number of specimens, came to the conclusion that all the Australian birds (including *E. undina*) should be classified as *Eudyptula minor nova-hollandiæ*.³

In view of the scantiness of available material for comparison no extended description is made. Our specimen has the characteristic blue-grey colouring, with a beautiful sheen, on the upper surface; the inner margins of the flippers are whitish, as is also the apical third of the tail; the fore-neck and lower surface are white. Following the body curves of the mounted specimen the bird is 460 mm. in length. The bill is 38 mm. in length; depth 15 mm.

From the excellent skin made and forwarded by Mrs. Fagan, our taxidermist (Mr. M. J. Colclough) has mounted the bird, which makes a very attractive addition to the case of penguins on exhibition.

¹ Nests and Birds Austr. & Tas., iv, 1914, p. 392.

² Birds of Australia, i, pt. 5, 1911, p. 285.

³ "The Emu," xviii, 1918, pp. 50-57.